

REMARKS

Claim 13 has been canceled, claim 12 has been amended and claims 14 to 20 have been added. Claims 12 and 14 to 20 are now active in this application.

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Karg (U.S. 5,957,149). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 12 requires, among other features, a first channel in the housing extending between the central aperture and the exterior of the housing and a second channel exclusive of the first channel in the housing extending between the central aperture and the exterior of the housing. No such structure is taught or even remotely suggested by Karg.

Claim 12 further requires that the valve ring, when disposed at the internal bottom surface, block communication between the first and second channels and, when disposed at the surface, permit communication between the first and second channels. No such structure is taught or even remotely suggested by Karg.

It follows that, not only is the purpose of the converter valve of Karg entirely different from that of the subject invention, but the structure is also entirely different. The only similarity is in the title.

Claims 14 to 20 depend from claim 12 and therefore define patentably over Karg for at least the reasons set forth above with reference to claim 12.

In addition, claim 14 further limits claim 12 by requiring that the valve ring contain an aperture extending therethrough. No such structure is taught or even remotely suggested by Karg either alone or in the combination as claimed.

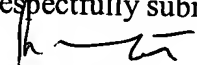
Claims 15 and 16 further limit claims 12 and 14 by requiring that the valve ring be movable toward the internal bottom surface responsive to the application of a vacuum in the second channel. No such structure is taught or even remotely suggested by Karg either alone or in the combination as claimed.

Claims 17 and 18 further limit claims 12 and 14 by requiring that the valve ring be movable toward the internal top surface responsive to the application of a fluid against the valve ring and in a direction through the first and second channels toward the exterior of the housing. No such structure is taught or even remotely suggested by Karg either alone or in the combination as claimed.

Claims 19 and 20 further limit claims 12 and 14 by requiring that the valve ring be movable toward the internal bottom surface responsive to the application of a vacuum in the second channel and movable toward the internal top surface responsive to the application of a fluid against the valve ring and in a direction through the first and second channels toward the exterior of the housing in the absence of the vacuum. No such structure is taught or even remotely suggested by Karg either alone or in the combination as claimed.

In view of the above remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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